

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069816

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. FOR CONSULAR SECTION: WE AND VO ARE NOT CLEAR ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE BABKEN VARDANYAN CASE. VO WAS ABOUT TO WRITE TO INS REQUESTING CO REVIEW BUT MOSCOW 4735 SEEMS TO INDICATE HE IS EN ROUTE TO ROME. PLEASE CLARIFY.
2. AS BACKGROUND TO CABLE ON ER/RB ALEKSANDROV LETTER, WE ARE REPEATING RELEVANT TRAFFIC WHICH WILL CLARIFY SOME OF SENSITIVITIES ON THIS ISSUE HERE.
3. FLOWING FROM A MEETING THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS EMBASSY SUPPORT STAFFING DURING CONSTRUCTION (AND ALSO FOR OLYMPICS) EUR/EX IS THINKING ABOUT 1 OR 2 NEW ASSISTANT GSO POSITIONS FOR MOSCOW BEGINNING POSSIBLY IN 1979. IF THEY COULD BE HOUSED, AND WE FULLY APPRECIATE YOUR CURRENT PROBLEMS, THEN
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WE MAY HAVE A PRIMA FACIE CASE FOR NEED. WE BELIEVE WE COULD COME UP WITH ASPIRING SOVIET SPECIALISTS WHO WOULD BE GOOD CANDIDATES. COULD WE HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS?

4. REF MOSCOW 4865 PARA 3 - WE CALLED CONGRESSMAN MOAKLEY'S OFFICE AND THEY CONCURRED THAT YOU MAY OPEN AND COPY LETTERS TO BREZHNEV AND RUDENKO, THEN FORWARD ORIGINALS. THEY ALSO

AGREED YOU MAY RETURN LETTER TO KUZNETSOV. PLEASE SEND IT TO EUR/SOV ATTENTION WILLEMS.

4. SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN ANSWERING MOSCOW 2732; IT MUST HAVE BEEN MISROUTED SOMEWHERE BECAUSE WE DID NOT RECEIVE IT, ALTHOUGH FADRC RETRIEVED IT FOR US BY NUMBER. WE WILL START GIVING YOU THE NUMBERS OF O-IS RECEIVED SO YOU CAN KEEP A CHECKLIST. WE HAD NOT RECEIVED 4689 PREVIOUSLY.

5. WE ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES GETTING REACTIONS AND ANSWERS TO YOUR CABLES OUT OF CODEL PRICE. IN PART THIS REFLECTS JOHN FORD'S EXTREMELY BUSY SCHEDULE AND OUR AND H'S INABILITY TO REACH HIM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AF COL. ALEXANDER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY AND CON GEN BY PHONE ON SOME POINTS. WE WILL RECOMMEND TO FORD, IF WE CAN REACH HIM, THAT HE TELEPHONE BILL BROWN TO GIVE ANSWERS/REACTIONS TO SOME OF THE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS RAISED IN MOSCOW 4780, 4736 AND 4860. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ALEXANDER THAT CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. PRICE ACCEPT OFFERS FROM CON GEN AND AMBASSADOR TO STAY IN RESIDENCES. THIS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED IN CABLES EARLY NEXT WEEK. PLEASE INFORM LENINGRAD AS NECESSARY. VANCE

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